

## Action Alert

September 2000

### Labeling for Irradiated Foods in Danger

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Buried in the details of the current USDA/FDA appropriations bill ( H.R. 4461 / S.2536) is a section requiring the Food and Drug Administration to create "alternative terms" to describe irradiated foods in their labeling requirements - a move pushed by the food and nuclear industries. This appropriations bill has been passed by the U.S. House and Senate and the details are being reconciled in committee before passing it to President Clinton to sign. It is likely that the FDA will change its labeling requirements as directed by Congress if this Congressional language is not removed from the bill.

Recent consumer polls have indicated that about half of consumers are not interested in buying labeled irradiated foods and that only 23% would pay a higher price for irradiated meat. Frustrated by consumer resistance, industry particularly those in the irradiation business, has been pushing deceptive labeling such as "cold pasteurization" or "electronic pasteurization" as a way to disguise the irradiation process and make it seem less "alarming." Now industry has, by way of Congress, instructed the FDA to change its labeling requirements.

Please write the following committee members of Congress and ask them to remove any labeling instructions from the final appropriations bill coming out of the conference committee ( see sample letter ). Also send a copy of your letter to the FDA and President Clinton who has to sign off on it . If your Congress person is not listed here, write the FDA and President Clinton.

#### Key Members of the U.S. House and Senate:

Rep. Joe Skeen ( R - NM)  
2032 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Mary Kaptur ( D-OH)  
2366 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS)  
326 Russell Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Herbert Kohl (D-WI)  
330 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Arlen Specter  
711 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Byron Dorgan ( D-ND)  
713 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Christopher Bond (R-MO)  
274 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)  
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Slade Gorton  
730 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL)  
364 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY)  
361A Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Conrad Burns (R-MT)  
187 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA)  
731 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Food & Drug Administration**  
**5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061**  
**Rockville, MD 20852**

**President Bill Clinton**  
**The White House**  
**1600 Pennsylvania Ave.**  
**Washington, D.C. 20500**

*Letters Needed Now!*

98N-1038

*no labeling please - E. Zahn*

Consumers United for Food Safety (CUFFS), P.O. Box 22928 Seattle WA 98122 USA 425-747-2659



Eleanor S. Zahn

751 Kearney St.

Port Townsend, WA 98368-8307

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Food & Drug Administration  
5630 Fisher's Lane Room 1061  
Rockville, Md 20852

